

January 25, 2001

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT LETTER

SOLICITATION FOR SUPPLEMENTAL PROPOSALS TO ESTABLISH COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES BETWEEN EXISTING REHABILITATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

1. This Information Letter announces the opportunity for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers to submit proposals for Supplemental Proposals to Establish Collaborative Activities between Existing Rehabilitation Research and Development Centers.
2. The Rehabilitation Research and Development (RR&D) Service currently sponsors nine centers. This is an effort to encourage collaborative efforts between the centers, which will enhance the activities of each of the centers involved. Each center may apply for one or more of these supplements and the collaboration may be with one other center or several centers. Collaborative research involves the expenditure of intellectual capital of each participating center as well as participation in the conduct of the actual research activity. The effort must be patient oriented but does not need to involve human subjects. Successful collaborations may be carried over to the future years of the center to enhance the research advancements of the RR&D centers program.
3. **Research Proposal Preparation:** This solicitation is only open to existing Rehabilitation Research and Development Centers. Applications may request up to \$50,000 per year per proposal for up to two years to support the collaborative effort. Each established RR&D Center may be the lead on one funded proposal, but may submit up to three proposals for consideration. No limit is set on the number of collaborations in which a Center may participate. Supplemental funds may only be used for purposes of the collaborative effort. Award funds may be used for enhancement of communication systems between centers, partial FTE to perform data collection and/or analysis, and equipment purchases (within confines of \$50,000 total award). Travel funds are extremely limited. However, RR&D will match up to \$750 per year in approved travel budgets. Travel funds are **not** available for conferences, scientific meetings, or workshops. Awards will be made to the lead Center which will then bear the responsibility for further distribution.

While no letter of intent is required, the RR&D service does require a notification of intent to be eligible to apply. This information is necessary to prepare for the review of the subject area of the proposals. The notification must be sent to Laura Bowman at the application receipt address (below) and be received no later than February 1st. Include the VA RR&D Centers participating, the Principal investigators (one from each center) a brief paragraph describing the areas to be studied. The notification must be cosigned by the principal investigators and the ACOS of each VAMC. Faxed signatures will be accepted. The notification is required by the February 1st deadline, it will not be evaluated and approval to continue the application process is granted on receipt.

Proposals must use the Merit Review format. However, the Narrative, Literature Cited and Appendix sections together may not exceed 10 pages. The narrative should include one to two pages about existing work and one to two pages about proposed work. All proposals must show review by the appropriate Research and Development Committees and Subcommittees.

4. Proposal Submission

- a. An original and eight copies of the proposal must be sent to:

Rehabilitation Research and Development Service Office (122)
810 Vermont Ave, NW,
Washington, DC 20420

- b. All proposals must be received at this address on or before February 26th, 2001.

5. Review and Award: Proposals will be reviewed by the end of March. Scientific merit, capability of the participants to conduct the proposed research and suitability to the RR&D mission will be the main considerations for selecting awardees. Successful applicants will receive supplemental awards on or about May 1st, 2001.

6. For further information about this supplemental program, contact Laura Bowman at (202) 408-3680 or email bowlau@mail.va.gov .

John R. Feussner, M.D., M.P.H.
Chief Research and Development Officer

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